

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SALT T 00283 121535Z

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SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR JOHNSON'S STATEMENT OF AUGUST 12, 1975

(SALT TWO - 724)

THE FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR JOHNSON AT
THE SALT TWO MEETING OF AUGUST 12, 1975.

QUOTE

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR JOHNSON

AUGUST 12, 1975

MR. MINISTER,

I

ON JULY 18, 1975, I DISCUSSED AN IMPORTANT REQUIREMENT OF
THE NEW AGREEMENT -- THE PROVISION FOR REGULAR EXCHANGES OF
PERTINENT INFORMATION BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES. IN YOUR STATE-

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 SALT T 00283 121535Z

MENT AT OUR LAST MEETING YOU PRESENTED YOUR VIEWS OPPOSING

INCLUSION OF SUCH A PROVISION IN THE NEW AGREEMENT. IN ADDITION TO THESE FORMAL STATEMENTS, INTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS OF THIS SUBJECT HAVE TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN OUR TWO DELEGATIONS. IN LIGHT OF THESE EXCHANGES, I WANT TO DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT FURTHER TODAY.

II

THE US PROPOSAL FOR SUBPARAGRAPH 2(A) OF ARTICLE XVIII OF THE JOINT DRAFT TEXT PROVIDES THAT THE PARTIES, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE STANDING CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION WILL "AT THE FIRST SESSION FOLLOWING THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THIS AGREEMENT, AND TWICE ANNUALLY THEREAFTER, EXCHANGE INFORMATION ON THE NUMBERS BY CATEGORY OF THEIR STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS LIMITED BY THIS AGREEMENT."

THE ABM TREATY LIMITS ONE SYSTEM TO LOW DEPLOYMENT LEVELS AND THE INTERIM AGREEMENT ESSENTIALLY CONSTITUTES A FREEZE ON ONLY TWO SYSTEMS. IN CONTRAST, THE NEW AGREEMENT WILL LIMIT A LARGER NUMBER OF SYSTEMS AT HIGHER NUMERICAL LEVELS. THE EXPANDED SCOPE OF THE NEW AGREEMENT, TAKEN TOGETHER WITH THE QUALITATIVE ASPECTS OF THE NUMEROUS WEAPONS SYSTEMS INVOLVED, WILL RESULT IN A HIGHER LEVEL OF COMPLEXITY THAN IN THE TWO PREVIOUS AGREEMENTS. FURTHERMORE, AS EACH SIDE EXERCISES ITS RIGHT TO MODERNIZE AND REPLACE THESE SYSTEMS, THE COMPOSITION AND NATURE OF THE STRATEGIC FORCES OF BOTH SIDES CAN BE EXPECTED TO CHANGE. SUCH CHANGES CAN BE NUMEROUS IN VIEW OF THE NUMBERS OF INDIVIDUAL STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS OF VARIOUS CATEGORIES LIMITED BY THE AGREEMENT. THE HEIGHTENED COMPLEXITY OF THE NEW AGREEMENT, AND THE CHANGES IN THE STRATEGIC FORCES WHICH WILL UNDOUBTEDLY OCCUR OVER THE LIFE OF THE AGREEMENT, WILL INCREASE THE POTENTIAL FOR AMBIGUITIES CONCERNING COMPLIANCE. THIS INCREASE IN THE POTENTIAL FOR AMBIGUITIES WOULD IN TURN LEAD TO INCREASED POTENTIAL FOR MISUNDERSTANDINGS. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT AT THIS TIME WE TAKE STEPS TO REDUCE THIS POTENTIAL FOR MISUNDERSTANDINGS BY PROVIDING FOR AN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION.

EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION IS NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR VERIFICATION BY NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS. RATHER, REGULAR EXCHANGES
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 SALT T 00283 121535Z

OF INFORMATION WILL SERVE TO COMPLEMENT THE DATA OBTAINED BY THOSE MEANS AND TO ASSIST THE TWO SIDES IN RESOLVING AMBIGUITIES AND MISUNDERSTANDINGS WHICH MAY ARISE. IF AN AMBIGUITY OCCURRED WITH RESPECT TO COMPLIANCE WITH THE LIMITATIONS OF THE NEW AGREEMENT, A SIDE COULD POSSIBLY RESOLVE THE AMBIGUITY BEFORE IT BECAME A CONTENTIOUS ISSUE. FOR EXAMPLE, IF THROUGH THE USE OF NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS ONE SIDE WERE TO COME TO THE BELIEF THAT THE OTHER SIDE WAS DEPLOYING MORE THAN 2400

STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS, A COMPARISON OF DATA OBTAINED BY NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS WITH THE INFORMATION RECEIVED THROUGH A PERIODIC EXCHANGE COULD ISOLATE THE AREA OF AMBIGUITY AND THUS PERMIT FOCUSING SPECIAL ATTENTION ON THAT AREA. ALSO, AN AMBIGUITY IN A SPECIFIC CATEGORY OF WEAPONS COULD BE ADDRESSED IN THE SCC DIRECTLY WITHOUT REQUIRING THAT ALL OTHER CATEGORIES OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS COVERED BY THE AGGREGATE LIMIT ALSO BE ADDRESSED.

MR. MINISTER, IN YOUR STATEMENT OF AUGUST 8, YOU STATED THAT IT WOULD BE UNJUSTIFIED TO INCLUDE AMONG THE FUNCTIONS OF THE SCC A PROVISION FOR EXCHANGING INFORMATION ON THE NUMBERS BY CATEGORY OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS. IT IS THE US VIEW THAT AN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION OF THIS NATURE IS NECESSARY TO INSURE THAT THE AGREEMENT WE ARE DRAFTING GAINS THE FULL CONFIDENCE OF BOTH SIDES.

EXCHANGING INFORMATION ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS IS NOT BY ITSELF SUFFICIENT. IT IS NOT TO THE ADVANTAGE OF EITHER SIDE TO WAIT FOR PROBLEMS TO ARISE BEFORE MAKING THE DECISION AS TO WHETHER INFORMATION IS TO BE PROVIDED.

III

MR. MINISTER, THE NEW AGREEMENT WILL BE BROADER IN SCOPE AND MORE COMPLEX IN NATURE THAN EITHER THE ABM TREATY OR THE INTERIM AGREEMENT. FOR THESE REASONS, WHAT WAS SUFFICIENT FOR THE EARLIER AGREEMENTS WILL NOT BE SUFFICIENT TO MEET OUR FUTURE NEEDS. I WANT TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT INFORMATION EXCHANGE IS NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR VERIFICATION BY NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS, NOR IS IT INTENDED THAT IT BE USED TO OBTAIN DATA THAT CANNOT BE COLLECTED BY THOSE MEANS. RATHER, INFORMATION EXCHANGE WILL REDUCE THE POTENTIAL FOR AMBIGUITIES AND MISUNDER-
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 SALT T 00283 121535Z

STANDINGS AND HELP RESOLVE THOSE THAT ARISE DURING THE COURSE OF THE NEW AGREEMENT.

UNQUOTE JOHNSON

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